

Update on COVID-19: PPE Availability

Brief note on PPE stocks

- We are receiving a large number of approaches from members regarding the availability of PPE.
- Obviously, PPE is clearly currently available for anyone caring for a patient with COVID-19 infection, plus probable and suspected cases, as well as those undertaking swabs/testing; but PPE also needs to be more readily available to ‘frontline’ health professionals.
- The Ministry of Health national reserve have 8 million masks and there are another five million in DHBs.
- The national reserve has 1.9 million aprons and gowns, 2.7 million pairs of gloves and 60,000 sets of eye wear. These are additional to supplies that DHBs hold for normal use.
- More masks are currently being manufactured in New Zealand and other PPE items are being sourced internationally.

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